

5. (Amended) The process of claim 4, wherein the hydrocarbon rich liquid fraction obtained in step (a) is fed to a position in the distillation column above the feed inlet of the hydrocarbon rich gaseous fraction obtained in step (b).

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6. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrogen separation selectivity of the membrane separation in step (b) is greater than 20, wherein the hydrogen separation selectivity is defined as the permeability ratio of hydrogen over methane.

10 7. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the methane separation selectivity of the membrane separation in step (b) is greater than 5, wherein the methane separation selectivity is defined as the permeability ratio of methane over propane.

Respectfully submitted,

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